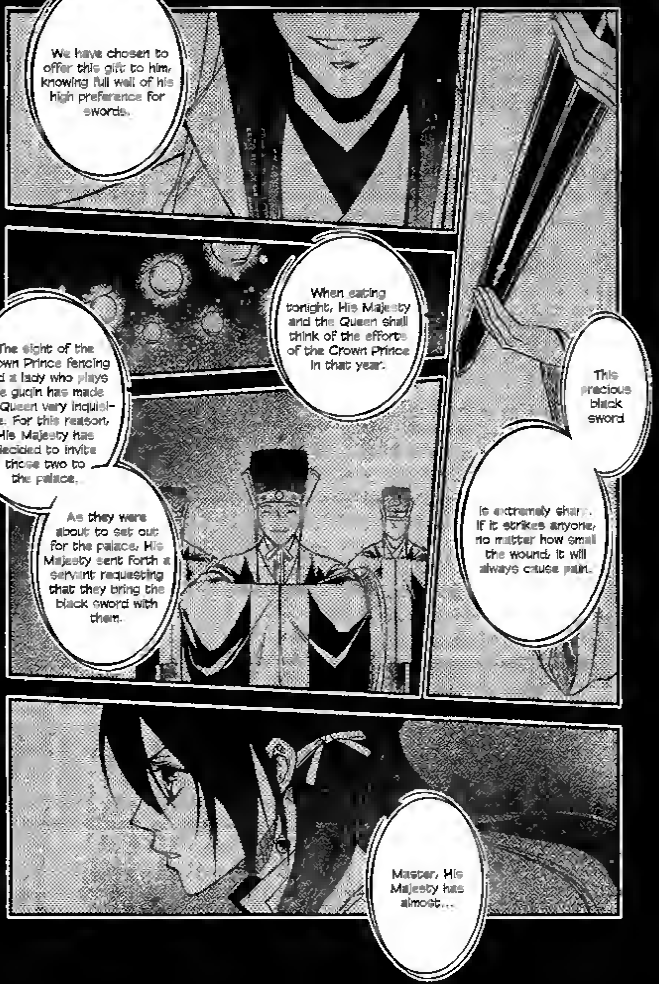
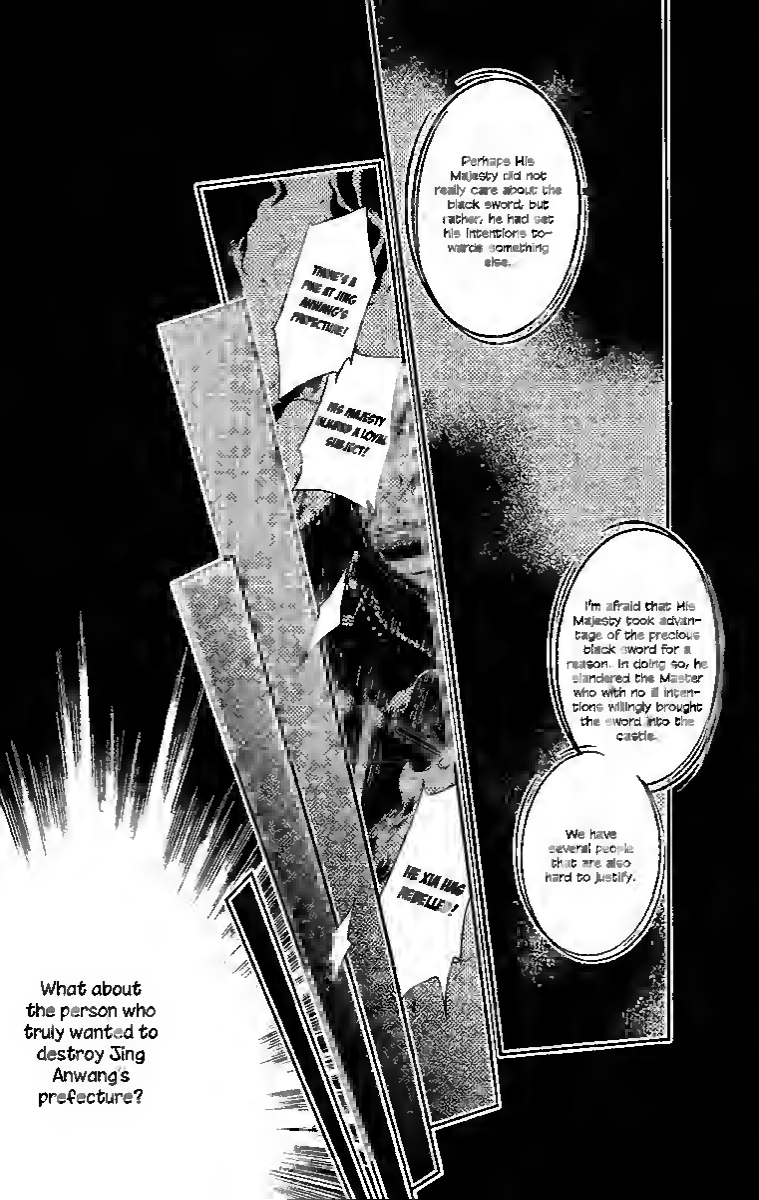
孤芳不自赏
Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang
CHAPTER 10

DID HIS MAJESTY APPOINT YOU?
Everyone listen here, my son in Dongtin has violated our border for more than two years.
YES, IT WAS HIS MAJESTY.
Today, the Crown Prince, He Xia of Jing Anwang's prefecture has victoriously returned, establishing a great deed. We must reward him generously.


We have chosen to offer this gift to him, knowing full well of his high preference for swords.
When eating tonight, His Majesty and the Queen shall think of the efforts of the Crown Prince in that year.
The sight of the Crown Prince fencing and a lady who plays the guqin has made the Queen very inquisitive. For this reason, His Majesty has decided to invite those two to the palace.
As they were about to set out for the palace, His Majesty sent forth a servant requesting that they bring the black sword with them.
This precious black sword
is extremely sharp. If it strikes anyone, no matter how small the wound, it will always cause pain.
Master, His Majesty has almost...


Perhaps His Majesty did not really care about the black sword, but rather, he had set his intentions towards something else.
THERE'S A FIRE AT JING ANWANG'S PREFECTURE!
HIS MAJESTY HARMED A LOYAL SUBJECT!
I'm afraid that His Majesty took advantage of the precious black sword for a reason. In doing so, he slandered the Master who with no ill intentions willingly brought the sword into the castle.
We have several people that are also hard to justify.
HE XUN WAS REBELLED!
What about the person who truly wanted to destroy Jing Anwang's prefecture?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE IMPERIAL CONCUBINE?
REST ASSURED, THEY'RE SLEEPING INSIDE THE HORSE CART AFTER TAKING SOME MEDICATION.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO REVEAL YOURSELF NOW?
I, TOO, HAVE SOME MATTERS TO SETTLE IN THE BORDERS OF GUI LE.
YOU DIDN'T TRUST ME FROM THE START, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
Your Majesty!

UNLIKE YOU, THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS PUT THEIR UTMOST TRUST IN ME AND THANKS TO THEM I'VE HAD A VERY GOOD IMAGE.
IS THIS THE PRICE THEY HAVE TO PAY FROM TRUSTING YOU?
NAME ONE PERSON WHO WAS APPOINTED TO AN IMPORTANT POST THAT BETRAYED THE KING.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!!!

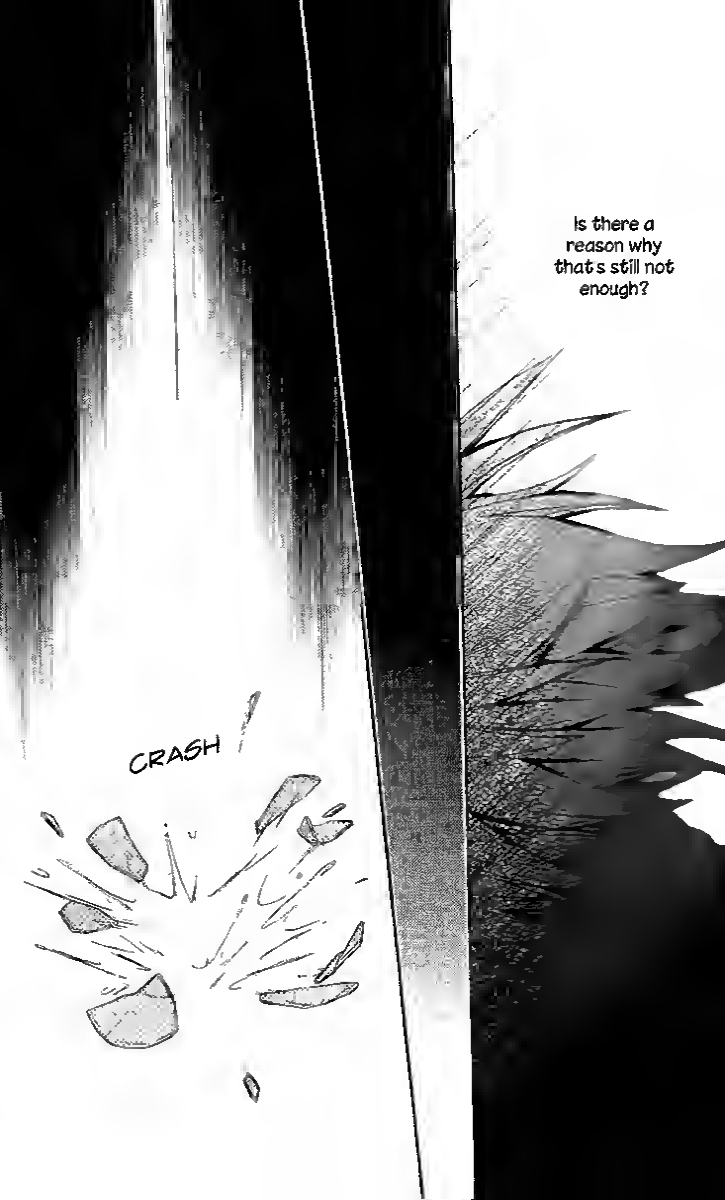
EVER SINCE YOU WERE SMALL, YOU HAD EVERYTHING. HOW COULD YOU EVER UNDERSTAND THE SUFFERING OF OTHER PEOPLE?
I WAS ONLY ADOPTED BECAUSE I'M SUPPOSED TO RISK MY LIFE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.
WHAT EFFECT DOES BEING A SCHOLAR HAVE? YOU CAN ONLY BE A MERE DETECTIVE. WHAT ABOUT DECENT FIGHTING SKILLS? YOU CAN ONLY FLEE LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE AN EXPERT AT EVERYTHING AND THE MOST FAMOUS; YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL! INVINCIBLE!
BUT PEOPLE CAN'T STAND LOOKING AT YOU!
MERIT THAT WAS NOT RECOGNISED BY THE PALACE WOULD GO EXCLUSIVELY TO YOU, MASTER.
IT'S HARD TO LOOK AT...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID THAT YOUR CURRENT APPEARANCE IS HARD TO LOOK AT.
SELFISH AND GREEDY. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE IN THE PALACE LIKE YOU. GUI LE DOESN'T NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

SHUT UP!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH AN EYESORE!
HIS MAJESTY WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU.
HMPH! EVEN NOW YOU'RE STILL ON GUI LE'S SIDE. WHAT ABOUT SIDING WITH HIS MAJESTY?
IT'S CLEAR THAT THE WHOLE FAMILY IS LOYAL. BUT THEN WHY ARE THEY IN THIS SITUATION
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
SHUT UP!

Is it because I can't understand?

No, for a long time I've never really wanted to understand.
I just wanted to seclude myself from everyone in the forest and mountains...


Is there a reason why that's still not enough?
CRASH

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING...
I WAS JUST PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GARDEN SO I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
COME HERE!
HUH?

BAM
YOU'RE NOT LETTING ME COME INTO YOUR ROOM. WHY ARE YOU HIDING THIS FROM ME?
Should I tell him? You know?
.....
YOU COUGH A LOT AT NIGHT, DON'T YOU?
What?
Do I have to tell you to pay close attention?
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, YOU ARE NOT TO HIDE IT FROM ME.
IT'S JUST A SMALL COUGH, NOTHING SERIOUS.

Sometimes, things are just normal. Then, other times he becomes oppressive and I won't hear one good thing from him the entire day.
Sometimes, he can be humble, but then other times he becomes presumptuous and haughty.
He's a difficult person to read...

It's already the end of Autumn, it's almost time to leave this place.
But why don't I have the heart to go somewhere far...?
BA-DUMP

WHAT'S WRONG?
What am I hoping for?

Master, I don't know what I should do...
WHY...

MASTER!
MASTER!
MASTER!

MASTER, THE DONGLIN ARMY HAS TEMPORARILY RETREATED! WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS!
There's so much blood!
YES!
FORM YOUR RANKS! WITHDRAW TO GUI YE!
MASTER
I'M FINE.
MASTER, THE IMPERIAL CONCUBINE IS AWAKE!

MOTHER!
LAI ER!
I'M FINE, MOTHER.
LAI ER, MY BELOVED LAI ER.
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HURT SO BADLY? MY BELOVED SON

MOTHER.
MASTER, LET ME TREAT YOUR WOUNDS.
WHERE'S DONG ZHUO?
HOW CAN THE KING BE SO HEARTLESS? HOWEVER, THE ROYAL FAMILY WON'T STAND FOR YOU TO HATE HIM. WHY?

Is it still not enough?
DONG ZHUO, HE...

Gu Fang Gu Zi Shang
RIGHTS YOU.
FROM HIS MANGA
TRANSLATOR: SO
PROOFREADER: ZANN
EDITOR: JOEY
TYPESETTER: HONG
COVER: JOEY